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Magazine

SUPPORT NATURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL &
AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION

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On the Cover: South Carolina Young Farmer delegates attending the National Young Farmer Institute in Charleston.

Notes from the State Advisor

By Dr. Dale A. Law



Dr. Dale A. Law

SC FFA Growing and Changing

For the second year in a row, the SC Association of FFA is experiencing a significant increase in membership. The latest membership figures are at 4,800

for 1995-96 which is a nine percent increase from last year, similar to the increase from the previous year. Overall enrollment in Natural, Environmental, and Agricultural Resources Education (NEARE) programs in South Carolina has increased 25 % in the last two years. Enrollment and membership increases can be attributed to a variety of factors, but most important are excellent teachers and quality programs. I encourage you to share your experiences and what you are learning in the classroom/laboratory, your Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs and through FFA with your fellow students, parents and your community. Many of your classmates may be unaware of the exciting laboratory and leadership activities available to them through NEARE and FFA.

Several significant changes are occurring within the FFA organization at both the national and state level. The National FFA Board of Directors is studying the possibility of moving the National FFA Center (business offices and supply service) from Alexandria, VA to an undetermined location, and moving the National FFA office (headquarters) to a downtown Washington D.C. location. It is believed that these moves would make the FFA operations more efficient and effective in serving members. Another study is underway to determine where to conduct future National FFA Conventions. Many teachers believe the convention has outgrown Kansas City since over 37,000 people attended last year. This has made it necessary for some chapters to stay in hotels as far as 60 miles away. The 1996 convention will be held in Kansas City, and I encourage you and your chapter advisor to make your hotel arrangements as soon as possible. During the first week of April, your advisor received information directly from the National FFA Office about making hotel arrangements.

Within South Carolina, many significant changes are occurring with FFA as well. The FFA Advisory Council has employed an interim Executive Secretary to work with me for the time period of January 1 through June 30, 1996. It is hoped that other initiatives to restructure FFA staff will have proven successful by this time. The Executive Secretary has been assigned responsibilities for the FFA awards programs, career development events, state convention and other activities. AgFirst, formerly the Farm Credit Bank of Columbia, is providing space for a state FFA office. The address is 1401 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29202 and the phone number is 803-771-0520. Even though I will continue to serve as State Advisor, most questions concerning FFA activities should be directed to the Executive Secretary. Once the transition is completed, this change will allow me to devote more time to NEARE programs, curricula, inservice and technology implementation.

Beginning in September, the *YF & FFA Magazine* will be published and disseminated by the National FFA Organization as a part of the *FFA New Horizons* magazine. The format and frequency of publication (bimonthly) will remain the same as it has been for the last two years, but it will become a 16-page center insert in the national magazine and mailed to all South Carolina FFA members. Several states are adopting this method of publication and dissemination. The content, advertising and other aspects of the magazine will still be supervised by South Carolina FFA. This change in publisher and printer will result in saving several thousand dollars each issue. The September issue will be Volume 46, Issue 1. You are encouraged to submit articles and pictures for upcoming issues.

The SC FFA Foundation Board of Directors has approved formation of a Sponsoring Committee similar to the structure used by the National FFA Organization Board of Trustees. The Sponsoring Committee members will be drawn from agricultural businesses and industries interested in helping the SC FFA. One of its purposes will be to solicit sponsorships for various FFA activities and projects.

Summer Camp

Since this is the last issue of the magazine prior to summer camping season, I encourage you to spend a week at the Cherry Grove FFA Camp participating in leadership, educational, and recreational activities with other FFA members from throughout South Carolina. Several improvements have been made in the physical facilities and the programs continue to get better every year. If you are interested, talk to your advisor for dates and themes.

69th Annual State Convention

Make plans now to attend the 69th Annual Convention of the South Carolina Association of FFA, June 5-7, 1996, to be held in Brook's Center for the

Performing Arts on the campus of Clemson University. **All FFA members** and their advisors are urged to attend a part or all of the convention sessions. In addition to all members being eligible to attend, each chapter may send two official delegates to conduct the business of the SC Association of FFA.

The Convention will provide an excellent opportunity for you to interact with FFA members from throughout South Carolina. Top award winners will be announced including State Star in Agribusiness, State Star Farmer, State FFA Degrees, proficiency awards and many more. In addition, new state officers will be elected to lead the Association for 1996-1997.

You can also participate in the convention in the following ways by: volunteering to serve as a Courtesy Corps member, sharing your musical talent in the Chapter Talent Show, serving on the nominating committee, or in many other capacities. Check with your chapter advisor for details.

In addition to recognizing top award winners, special speakers and entertainment are also scheduled including Commissioner of Agriculture Les Tindal and comedian Jerry Clower, both scheduled for Wednesday night. Check with your chapter advisor now about making your hotel and transportation arrangements as well as volunteering to participate.

FFA Sponsors... State Legislators Appreciation Day

The plethora of blue and gold jackets made the capitol complex in downtown Columbia, SC look like Kansas City during a National FFA Convention on April 3. FFA members and their advisors came from all over South Carolina to the capital city to participate in State Legislators Appreciation Day.

The purpose of the visit was to thank the state legislators for their support of the FFA and the Natural, Environmental and Agricultural Resources Education programs in South Carolina.

"It was a first for the FFA members but they came prepared to thank their legislators and share with them the many successful FFA programs in South Carolina high schools," said John W. Parris, Interim



State Representatives Billy Witherspoon, Horry County (left) and State Farm Bureau official Benji Rhoad (right) are pictured here with a delegation of FFA members from the B.J. Skelton Career Center near Clemson.



State Senator Phil Leventis (seated), Sumter, is shown here with State FFA President Elizabeth Burdette and a delegation of FFA members from Sumter County.

State FFA Executive Secretary, who coordinated the event.

State Representative Billy Witherspoon from Horry County made arrangements for a large conference room for the young people to meet for photographs and share experiences.

State FFA President, Elizabeth Burdette of Hemingway, SC; State Vice Presidents, Chanda Helms and Shane Elrod of McBee and Belton respectively were on hand to greet the FFA members.

Ms. Burdette was high in her praise for the reception the FFA members received from the legislators. "We were thrilled to be introduced to the House and Senate members while they were in session," she said.

SC Farm Bureau officials Benji Rhoad and Pete Gustafson assisted the FFA in coordinating the event.

South Carolina Young Farmers Host National Institute



South Carolina Young Farmer delegates attending the National Young Farmer Institute in Charleston.

Over 550 young farmers from across the United States came to Charleston, SC Dec. 13-16 for the National Young Farmer Institute. The four-day event featured tours, educational programs, fellowship, and good "low country" cooking. Historic Charleston's quiet elegance provided the backdrop for the Institute.

A silent auction fund-raiser was held the first day of the Institute. Each state donated items such as toy size John Deere tractors, leather jackets, gourmet food baskets, and designer clothes for the auction.

At the opening banquet on Wednesday evening, Les Tindal, Commissioner of Agriculture, welcomed the young farmers to South Carolina and spoke about the diversity of South Carolina agriculture. Motivational

speaker Clebe McClary led the inspirational flag ceremony where the flag of each state represented at the Institute was presented and recognized. Following dinner, there was an "Ice Cream Social" sponsored by Mayfield Dairy Farms. Entertainment was provided by Four of a Kind's variety show and music.

Thursday morning Charleston Mayor Joe Riley welcomed the group to the city, and spoke of its rich history. He encouraged everyone to come back when they had more free time to enjoy all that Charleston has to offer.

Thursday and Friday were both tour days. The tour region was divided into East and West. The West Tour included stops in the Bowman and Orangeburg areas. The group visited Weathers Farm, Inc., which is the largest Holstein dairy

operation in South Carolina. The farmers stopped at O. L. Hughes Gin Company, representative of the cotton industry in South Carolina. The next stop was A. L. Felder Farm, Inc. which has some of the highest-valued cattle in the world today.

After lunch the tour participants visited Oak Grove Poultry. This facility sells an average of 7 flocks of 120,000 birds each every year. The final stop on the West tour was Shady Grove Plantation and Nursery. Shady Grove has over 400 acres of nursery stock and specializes in large specimen trees, many of which are shipped all over the United States.

The East tour was concentrated along the coast. The group stopped at The Charleston Tea Plantation, the only commercial tea farm in America. The owners and staff gave an informative

tour of the facility. A stop at Sunny Point Farms gave the young farmers the opportunity to learn about and see up close an extensive irrigation system. The designer and installer, Brian Hobbs, was on site to explain the system and answer any questions.

The buses stopped at Folly Beach and continued on toward Charles Towne Landing where they lunched on a low-country specialty Beaufort Stew. At Charles Towne Landing Park they visited the gardens, saw local wild-life in its natural habitat, and learned about early settler life in the area.

At the Farm Bureau Grain Elevator the group was allowed to walk out on the docks for a closer look. There they got the unexpected opportunity to watch the unloading of a military ship docked close by. The final stop of the East tour was Carolina Nurseries. Here the group was able to see some of the innovative techniques that have helped to make Carolina Nurseries one of the largest container

stock nurseries in the Southeast.

The highlights of the Thursday evening banquet included greetings from South Carolina FFA President, Elizabeth Burdette; comments from the National Advisor from the U.S. Department of Education, Larry Case; and remarks from National Officer Candidates. National Young Farmer Education Association Executive Director, Gordon Stone, gave out the EAA Degree Awards. Comedian Jerry Clower entertained the group with his humorous stories.

Friday's banquet included the speeches from the winners of the Positive Spokesperson for Agriculture Contest. The Farm and Ranch Management Contest winners were also announced.

Saturday morning was filled with a variety of educational seminars. Topics such as leadership training, herd health, turf and shrub maintenance, pork production, and farm management were presented by local as well as national

experts. Saturday afternoon was open for everyone to enjoy the sights and sounds of Charleston—historic buildings, great food, and shopping.

At the closing banquet, a slide show featuring the events of the Institute brought smiles, chuckles, and even a few misty eyes. A preview of the 1996 NYFEA Institute, which will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, had everyone planning to meet again in the coming year.

The Institute Committee in charge of planning the events was made up of Bill Nance of McConnells, S.C., chairman; Dan Poston, Gresham, SC; Kenneth Chapman, Leesville, SC; Billy Keels, Dalzell, SC; Edsel and JoAnn Williams, Britton's Neck, SC; Jerry Pace, Britton's Neck, SC; Ronald Myers, Bowman, SC (Myers was state president of the SC Young Farmer Chapter at the time of the Institute); and Donna Shealy, formerly with the State Department of Agriculture and now Executive Director of the SC Nursery Association.

Governor David Beasley meets with State FFA Officers



Governor David Beasley is shown here with the 1995-96 State FFA Officers at a recent meeting in the Governor's office. Pictured here, left to right, are Chanda Helms, Vice President, a senior at McBee High School; Scott Gantt, Secretary, a student at Horry-Georgetown Technical College in Leesville; Elizabeth Burdette, State President, Hemingway; Willie Hayes, Vice President, Marion, a student at Benedict College; Shane Elrod, Vice President, Belton, a student at Tri-County Technical College; and Angela Rauch, Vice President, Lexington, a student at Columbia College.

Ms. President

Hemingway teen rises to the top of FFA's state ladder

by Denise Pridgen—staff writer
Florence Morning News

HEMINGWAY—The blue jeans and pullover shirt make Elizabeth Burdette look like any other school girl. But as the 18-year-old tosses her hair back over her shoulder and begins talking, it's easy to see what sets her apart.

The 1995 graduate of Hemingway High School grew up in the shadows of the Future Farmers of America. Her father, a minister, was a former member and a volunteer at local schools, Burdette said. She said it was only natural that she, too, become an FFA member.

Burdette worked hard in the FFA program at her high school in Westminster and was named chapter president. Then her family moved to Hemingway. And although the school had an FFA chapter, it wasn't as active as the one Burdette was used to. So she talked to the chapter advisor about things that could be done to make the group stronger and more active.

Burdette was elected chapter president and soon got the organization busy with several projects to build funds and the chapter's reputation within the school and community.

Her hard work paid off when she was named president of the South Carolina Association of FFA last June. Students seeking office at the state level are interviewed by a nominating committee. The committee then picks the top six



Elizabeth Burdette

people to fill the six state office positions, Burdette said.

"They put people in the offices they think they could work best in," she said.

Normally the number of females seeking office is limited, Burdette said. And if three happen to be running for office, usually only two are chosen, she said.

But June was different. The nominating committee began reading off the names of the six candidates and the offices they were to fill.

"They called out the names of two girls and I was kind of like, 'Oh, well, it's over now.' The president is the last to be announced and when they said my name,

I couldn't believe it," Burdette said. "Any office would've made me happy. But to be president was unbelievable."

Since then life has been a blur of chapter banquets, speaking engagements, television appearances, career expos, district workshops and leadership conferences.

Life got so busy that Burdette left Clemson University, where she was majoring in agricultural education, after one semester so that she could devote more time to FFA. She's taking English at Williamsburg Technical College and plans to go back to Clemson next fall.

"I was able to keep most of my scholarships and I'll just have to reapply for Pell Grants and my student loans. And I'll have to reapply to the University, but they told me that wouldn't be a problem," she said.

"I'm the first state officer who's taken time off to serve," Burdette said. "But there's no way I could've stayed in college and done all of the things I want to do and need to do. Right now, I'm driving to Columbia two and three times a week. I definitely think taking time off was very wise."

She said she also thinks joining FFA was very wise. Burdette said she learned valuable leadership skills and how to work with the public, as well as job skills for the future.

"I think FFA is for any youth looking for something to do or a place to belong," Burdette said.

SC Young Farmers Association News

The South Carolina Young Farmers Association met in Columbia, January 13, 1996.

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 1996:

Rex Bates, President, Hickory Tavern Chapter;
Roger Estridge, President-Elect, Crescent Chapter;
Reggie Padgett, Vice President, Saluda Chapter;
Randy Ligon, Vice President, Chester Chapter;
Johnford Murray, Vice President, Darlington Chapter;
Chris Ulmer, Vice President, Orangeburg Chapter;
and Ronald J. Myers, Past President, Bowman Chapter.

The Association Executive Committee has recently named Jay Coplan, Crescent Chapter, Executive Secretary and Edsel Williams of the Britton's Neck Chapter, Executive Treasurer and Dr. Dale A. Law, of Columbia is State Advisor.

President Rex Bates has announced that the Young Farmers Association will sponsor the State FFA Public Speaking Winner's trip to the National FFA Convention beginning this year.

Earl Frick receives National FFA VIP citation



J. Earl Frick, Jr.

J. Earl Frick, Jr. of Florence was presented the VIP Citation at the 1995 National Convention in Kansas City. Each year the National FFA Board of Directors and the National FFA Officers

recognize selected individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Agricultural Education and the FFA over a period of many years.

Frick, who retired as the SC State FFA Advisor and Executive Secretary in August 1993 after more than 30 years of

Clemson University, where he majored in Agricultural Education. He taught agriculture at McColl High School for three years (1963-1966) before joining the State Department of Education as District Supervisor in the Florence District Office.

He has been awarded the Honorary

He was recently honored as Outstanding Agriculturalist by the SC Cooperative Council.

service, was selected to receive the VIP Citation this year. During his career, he assisted in selecting a number of National FFA Contest and Award winners, and planned and coordinated several National Leadership Conferences for State FFA Officers. He was responsible for organizing a number of National FFA Convention trips for the delegates from South Carolina, planned State FFA Conventions, and conducted the statewide Program of Activities for FFA members.

Frick graduated from Chapin High School, where he was active in FFA, and

State FFA Degree, the Distinguished Service Award, the Honorary American FFA Degree, and is a member of Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honorary Fraternity for professional workers in Agriculture. He was recently honored as Outstanding Agriculturalist by the SC Cooperative Council.

Frick continues to be active in his Florence community, serving as a member and volunteer of St. Luke Lutheran Church, the Florence City-County Agricultural Commission, and the Florence Optimist Club.

FFA Members Become PALS With Local Elementary School Students

Kansas City elementary students, grades two through four, were introduced to agriculture and FFA members for the first time, according to Trailwoods Elementary School teacher Naomi Eads.

For many Trailwoods Elementary students, like third-grader Paris Elam, this is the first time they have been able to meet with FFA members. "My sister is young and my brother is old. I am the only one lucky enough to get to come," Elam said.

The 300 children, along with several hundred FFA members, participated in this year's Partners in Active Learning Support (PALS) Mentoring Conference.

PALS works on a local level to pair FFA members with elementary students in their area. The members spend time on homework, playing games and talking with the children.

Judi Kosterman, associate director for field operations for the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, put members in different role-playing acts to

help them understand how their younger counterparts may feel. "I want to learn to help the kids out as much as I can," said Christy Baird of the Marbury, Alabama FFA Chapter. Kosterman told the members that it is important to be willing to share yourself with the children; "this program is not about finding a hero, it is about being one."

The conference attendees met with the children and ate lunch with them. In the afternoon, students participated in agricultural activities, such as planting seeds and identifying leaves. Later, the older students helped the elementary children work on self-esteem and trust through team-building games.

Kevin Smith, a fourth-grader from McCoy Elementary, recalled what he liked best about the conference, "we got to exchange addresses and we can write to each other like pen pals." Many members who attended the workshop last year said they still keep in contact with students they met.

"PALS changes lives," said Greg Egan, national FFA teacher services specialist and program organizer. PALS helps bring back values missing in America, Egan said. The most important aspect of the program is the role models it provides for the young children.

The PALS program is currently established in 1,400 schools. Several are in South Carolina. Many members who attended the conference are trying to institute the program in their home chapters. "We want to help build a name for kids in our school, so others may want to join FFA," said Fremont, Utah, FFA member Cody Wauymant. The Highland, Kansas FFA Chapter hopes to start PALS as one of its community service projects, said chapter advisor Elmer Schmitz. The conference gave members a chance to see what constitutes a successful program.

If you are interested in starting a PALS program in your home chapter, you can contact Dale A. Law at 1-803-734-8426.

National FFA Convention Promotes Leadership: Breaks Attendance Record...Again

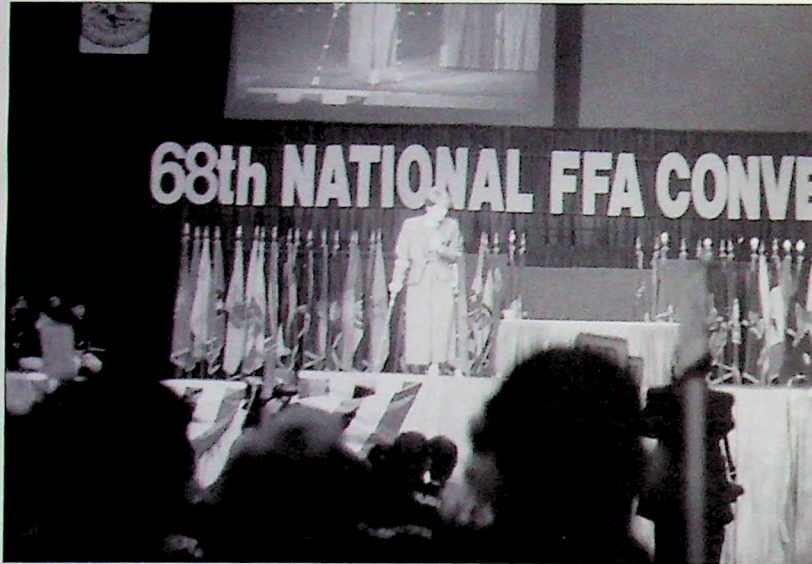
Over 37,000 FFA members and guests attended the 68th National FFA Convention, Nov. 9-11, an increase of almost 3000 from last year. Drawing attendees from around the country and beyond, the National FFA Convention is the largest student gathering in the world.

During the opening program, the 1994-95 national FFA officers got the

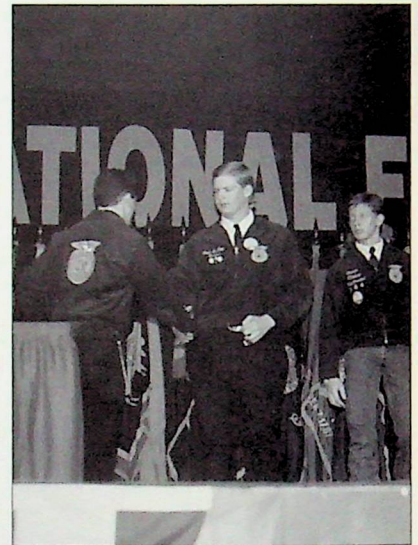
standing-room-only crowd on its feet, and challenged them to develop "Leadership for a Lifetime." The convention motivated members with new ideas and fresh approaches to take back to their chapters.

Several awards and degrees were bestowed during the convention. Members took part in a salute to sponsors

who make possible the extensive offering of FFA programs through the National FFA Foundation. The Honorary American FFA Degree, Distinguished Service Award and VIP Citation were awarded to businesses and individuals who support the organization. The FFA awarded 1,466 American FFA Degrees, the highest degree earned by an FFA member.



Diana Goldwyn, past olympic gold medalist, addressed the national convention body



John McGee and Shannon Chastain receive a Superior Chapter Award for Crescent High School



Kenneth "Chuck" Brock receives the National BOAC Winners certificate for Belton-Honea Path from national vice president Lee Schroeder



State officers: Willie Hayes, Shane Elrod, Chanda Helms, Angela Rauch and Elizabeth Burdette head to a convention session with enthusiasm!

Rex Bates Named Outstanding Young Farmer in South Carolina for 1995

Rex Bates, a farmer in the Princeton Community of western Laurens County, was named South Carolina's Outstanding Young Farmer at the annual State Young Farmers Convention in Columbia in January.

Rex started his farming career about eight years ago. His plan at first was to have a small beef cattle operation with about 20 head of cattle. As he was farm-hunting, a realtor showed him a larger farm which was ideal for rearing his family. He purchased the farm with all the equipment and cattle and thought he was ready to launch his farming career.

He soon discovered some of the equipment was worn out and caused a lot of delays in the fields. As the new calves began to be born, he ran into problems that required education and training he did not have. Rex first turned to a farmer friend for advice and guidance.



Rex and Toni Bates

keep most of his replacement heifers and sell his steers for beef to pay his expenses. Before long his herd was over a hun-

Rex started his farming career about eight years ago. His plan at first was to have a small beef cattle operation with about 20 head of cattle.

Rex talked with Clemson Extension Agent John Irwin who was very helpful. Soon after, he was invited to attend a Young Farmer meeting by former Agricultural Teacher Stewart Glenn at the Hickory Tavern High School. Rex joined the Young Farmer group and attended the monthly meetings regularly. Rex says "at the meetings I learned something new about farming each month."

Rex also states that his association with other farmers at the Young Farmer Chapter meetings proved very helpful in getting started in farming successfully. He has since won the Young Farmer-sponsored Beef Production Award, the Energy Efficiency Award and the Farm Service Award.

As he began his farm, Rex started with 47 commercial cows and 2 bulls. As his herd started producing, he would

dred cows and still growing. At this time he purchased additional land and found land to lease or use outside of his own farm. The small farm he was looking for had become a full-time job and he was continuing to get more experience. He now owns 436 acres of land and uses about 100 acres of rented land for his hay

needs. His commercial herd has almost all been replaced with Registered Black Angus and he is working toward having

his own production sales in the near future. His old equipment has been replaced with more efficient equipment because he is basically a one-man operation. He is constantly looking for ways to make his work easier and more productive.

When he started his registered herd, he saw the need for producing the best genetics that he could. First he invested in a computer to keep better records so he could pick out the bulls to breed his cattle that would diminish their weaknesses. He then went to Artificial Insemination School at Clemson to learn how to breed his own cattle. Rex is always looking for ways to improve his operation.

Rex is letting his children learn about agriculture and farm life by helping on the farm. As children enjoy playing more than working, he tries to encourage them by giving them their own animals to take care of. His kids give names to all the animals and help with sorting, vaccinating, weighing, and tagging the cattle. His main concern is teaching them the dangers that can happen around the farm. As they get older, he hopes they will want to learn showing and judging of cattle. Hopefully they will have an interest in FFA and they will learn about agriculture while they are young through our school system.

Rex and his wife Toni have 5 children. They are Bethany, 19; Kristin, 15; Jennifer, 11; Jessica, 7; and Rex, Jr., 5.

He and his family are active members of the Princeton Baptist Church where he is the Sunday School

Rex also states that his association with other farmers at the Young Farmer Chapter meetings proved very helpful in getting started in farming successfully.

Director, Assistant Director for the Brotherhood, softball coach and Royal Ambassador Teacher.

PAUL G. CHASTAIN, retired state agricultural education and FFA leader dies

Paul G. Chastain of Columbia, retired State Supervisor of Agricultural Education with the South Carolina Department of Education and State Advisor for the South Carolina FFA Association, died Saturday, March 9, 1996.

Born in Taylors, SC, Mr. Chastain received a BS Degree from Clemson University and a M.Ed. Degree from the University of South Carolina.

He succeeded the late W.E. Gore as the fourth person to serve as State Advisor of the SC FFA Association and served in the position from 1965-1969. He had served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National FFA Organization and national vice president of the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education for the Southern Region.

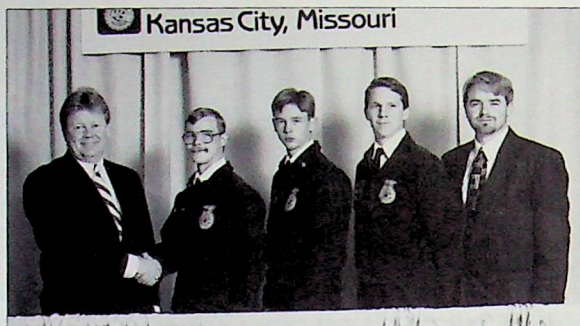
Mr. Chastain was the recipient of the Honorary American FFA Degree and Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of State Supervisors of Agricultural Education. He was recognized for 30 years of distinguished service to Agricultural Education in South Carolina. He was a life member of the American Vocational Association.

Mr. Chastain had also retired from the Army Reserve with the rank of Colonel having served in the US Army in World War II.

A charter member of Trenholm Road United Methodist Church, Mr. Chastain is survived by his wife, Mildred G. Chastain of Columbia; a daughter, Rebecca C. Jackson of Summerville; brothers Hugh Chastain of Mauldin, Joe K. Chastain and JP Chastain, both of Taylors; a sister Willa Mae Lindsay of Charleston and two grandchildren.

"Paul Chastain was a distinguished leader in Agricultural Education and a dedicated Advisor to the State FFA Association," said John W. Parris, Interim State FFA Executive Secretary. "He was a man of vision and determination and his influence will live on in the hundreds of lives he touched and inspired."

Ridge Spring-Monetta Competes in National FFA Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event



Members of the South Carolina state FFA agricultural mechanics team were one of 43 teams participating in the National FFA Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event at the 68th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

Members of the Ridge Spring-Monetta team are Henry Fulmer, Mitch Long, Brock White and their advisor, Rodney L. Mann.

The National FFA Agricultural

Mechanics Career Development Event is sponsored by Firestone Agricultural Tire Division in conjunction with the Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund, a charitable trust established by Bridgestone/Firestone incorporated of Nashville, Tenn., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The event is held at Fort Osage Vocational-Technical School, Independence, Mo.

Wagner-Salley Competes in National FFA Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event



Members of the South Carolina state FFA livestock team met with Purina Mills sponsor representative, Max Fisher of St. Louis, MO. The team was one of 45 participating in the National FFA Livestock Career Development Event at the 68th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, MO.

The members of the team are

Allison Cook, Lori Payne, Jamie Poole, and Dewey Macgargle. The team was accompanied by their advisor/coach, Allen Williams of Wagner-Salley, SC.

The National FFA Livestock Career Development Event is sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc., St. Louis, MO, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The event is held at the American Royal Arena in Kansas City, MO.

Britton's Neck Competes in National FFA Farm Business Management Career Development Event



Members of the South Carolina state FFA farm business management team met with the sponsor representative, Don Margenthaler, President, John Deere Foundation of Moline, Ill. The team was one of 44 participating in the National FFA Farm Business Management Career Development Event at the 68th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

The members of the team are Richard

Pitts, Adam Prosser, Shawn Johnson, and Jerome Woodberry. The team was accompanied by their advisor/coach, Jerry Pace of Britton's Neck, South Carolina.

The National FFA Farm Business Management Career Development Event is sponsored by John Deere, Moline, Ill., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The event is held at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center Hotel, Kansas City, Mo.

Parris Named Interim State FFA Executive Secretary



The SC FFA Advisory Council has named John W. Parris, of Columbia, interim State FFA Executive Secretary effective January 1, 1996.

Parris, a native of Spartanburg County, recently retired as executive director of the SC Land Resources Commission. He is no stranger to the FFA. As a high school student, Parris served as president of his local FFA chapter, and was awarded the State FFA Degree. He also served as president of Clemson University's Collegiate FFA Chapter while pursuing a B.S. Degree in Agricultural Education.

Upon graduation from Clemson University, Parris taught agriculture in Chester for six years and in Anderson city schools for two years before joining the state conservation agency staff.

He has been awarded the Honorary State FFA Degree and the Honorary American FFA Degree.

A Distinguished Centennial Agricultural Alumnus of Clemson University, Parris serves on the Board of Directors of Clemson's Agricultural Alumni organization, chairs the Advisory Board of Clemson's Sandhill Research and Education Center near Columbia, and is a member of Clemson University's Second Century Club.

Parris has been named Outstanding Professional Conservationist in the nation by the National Association of Conservation Districts; Man of the Year in South Carolina Agriculture by the *Progressive Farmer* magazine and Clemson University; received the Distinguished Service award from the American Society of Landscape Architects; and is recipient of the Order of the Palmetto from Governor Carroll A. Campbell.

We welcome Mr. Parris as interim executive secretary of the SC FFA. He is very excited about this unique opportunity to serve and promote the FFA at the local and state levels.

Ridge Spring-Monetta Competes in National FFA Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event



Members of the South Carolina state FFA nursery/landscape team met with sponsor representatives, Richard Anderson, Kubota Tractor Corporation and Carl J. Meyer, American Association of Nurserymen. The team was one of 44 participating in the National FFA Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event.

The members of the team are Lisa McCormick, Christy Cato, and Ben Rodgers, accompanied by their advisor/

coach, Rodney Mann of Monetta, SC.

The competition is sponsored by CHIPCO Specialty Products, Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company, Kubota Tractor Corporation, Valent U.S.A. Corporation, the American Association of Nurserymen, Inc. and Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The event is held at Swope Park Municipal Greenhouse Complex in Kansas City, MO.

National FFA Vice President to Address State FFA Convention



The 69th annual convention of the South Carolina FFA Association will be held at Clemson University, June 5-7, 1996. The convention will be held in the beautiful Brooks Center.

National FFA Vice President, William M. Catania of Westfield, New York, will attend and address the convention.

Nationally known agricultural promoter and country comedian Jerry Clower will be the keynote speaker on Wednesday evening, June 5.

"We are expecting the 1996 annual convention to be the largest and most successful ever," says Elizabeth Burdette, State FFA President.

Snelgrove, State Conservation Official, Receives Honorary American FFA Degree



Von P. Snelgrove, right, recipient of the National Honorary FFA Degree is being congratulated by John W. Parris, interim State FFA Executive Secretary

Von P. Snelgrove, chief of the Conservation Districts Program with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, was awarded the prestigious Honorary American FFA Degree in special ceremonies at the National FFA Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri, November 10, 1995.

This Degree, the highest honorary degree presented by the National FFA Organization, recognizes those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to advance agricultural education.

Snelgrove, an Aiken resident, was a member of the Pelion FFA Chapter when in high school. He has also

received the South Carolina Honorary State FFA Degree.

Snelgrove was recognized for his national leadership in natural resource education as a member of the National Task Force developing teaching guides for the FOOD, LAND AND PEOPLE Program. He was also recognized for his leadership at the state level for promoting and assisting with the State FFA Soil Identification and Land Treatment Career Development Event for 20 years.

Snelgrove was the only recipient of this award from South Carolina in 1995.

Agriculture It's Not Just About Farming Anymore

The need for agricultural skills has expanded beyond farms and into golf courses. At the Academy of Arts, Sciences and Technology, formerly known as the Grand Strand Career Center, this demand for agricultural knowledge has resulted in the formation of the first golf course technology/landscape major in the country.

The Grand Strand is currently home to 80 golf courses, with 22 courses under construction, bringing the total to over 100 courses within the next 10 years. The cost of building each golf course is between \$4-8 million apiece with an average yearly maintenance cost of an additional \$1/2 million each. Golf courses, however, are a profitable enterprise. According to Harry Dubose, agriculture teacher at the Academy of Arts, Sciences and Technology, the courses at the Grand Strand alone bring in \$450 million to the county and triple that amount (\$1.5 billion) to the state of South Carolina.

Students who take this class at the Academy of Arts, Sciences and Technology can receive both high school and college credit since the Academy entered into an articulation agreement with Horry-Georgetown Technical College. Clemson University also signed into an agreement with HGTC so students will automatically be given credit at that institution as well.

The class is structured around a competency-based curriculum and is open only to advanced placement students. As part of the class, held in the spring of a student's junior or senior year, an internship is required at one of the golf courses in the area. Because the need for these agricultural skills is so high, golf courses are willing to pay a student's tuition if the student continues his studies and majors in golf course technology.

Last November, students were given the opportunity to host the Pro-Am Senior Tour in the Grand Strand. All students who participated were awarded plaques in front of the local board of education. The school has a 3-year contract with the Tour, so students will host the event next year.

The old notion that agricultural skills are just for farming is outdated. In today's world, agricultural knowledge is being expanded to all different segments of the industry and will continue to change and evolve into the 21st century. Just think about that the next time you pass a golf course.

SC General Assembly Passes Resolution Recognizing FFA Members



A Concurrent Resolution commending South Carolina's FFA members, their advisors, school administrators, parents and all who support and encourage these students of Natural, Environmental and Agricultural Resources Education was introduced by State House of Representative Members Charles Sharpe, Bill Riser, Tom Rhoad and Billy Witherspoon in February.

The Resolution passed both bodies of the General Assembly and was signed by the Speaker of the House David H. Wilkins and Sandra K. McKinney, Clerk of the House on February 15, 1996.

Copies are available from John W. Parris, Interim State FFA Executive Secretary, 1401 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29202.

Links get first-class touch...

Kristina Torres—*The Sun News*

See Travis Herring, student of the greens.

See Travis stick ice pick into the greens—right at hole No. 13.

Um, did we mention Travis is supposed to be doing this?

Well, he is—as part of one of the 17-year-old's high school classes, Travis is helping whip the grounds of The Dunes Gold and Beach Club into shape for the upcoming Energizer Senior Tour Championship.

The kid, who doesn't play golf, is living a diehard duffer's dream.

"When I was growing up, I was told that everything worth doing is worth doing right," Herring said Thursday, squatting on the green with ice pick in hand on a very balmy afternoon. "It's fun. I took the class basically to get experience."

And some experience it is—six students spending four weeks on one of the

area's most picturesque golf courses and getting paid for it. If the weather's good, like it was Thursday, it's one heck of a way to spend time after school lets out.

"The main thing is the kids get the real world experience in preparing a golf course for a major tournament," Harry DuBose, the class instructor said. "This is something some 35-year-old people in this business can't put on their resume."

It's also something that some of the top Seniors and Super Seniors of the Senior PGA Tour will not only see but experience, too. One wrong rake of one of the golf course's 84 bunkers and—oops—so much for superlatives.

"It's a hot topic, getting good help and keeping good help," Randy Allen, the golf course's superintendent, said Thursday.

"This is a good group. I think they would be good help, if they're interested in it.

"There's more to maintaining a golf

course than people realize."

Thursday was "get rid of ball mark day," which basically means finding the little bald marks on the green, digging them out, then using the pick to scrunch the surrounding ground into the small hole—thereby filling it.

"They started a week ago today," Allen said of his charges. "I've basically had them edging bunkers and neatening up things."

There's a little more than a week left before tournament practice rounds start—Nov. 6—so the neatening up will intensify. The golf course actually closes on Halloween to give groundskeepers the time to get everything in tip-top shape.

By the end of the tournament—Nov. 12—Herring and his fellow students from the golf course landscape technology class of the Academy for the Arts, Science and Technology should be keen in knowing how to keep things green and clean.

FFA Camping Program

Fun! Exciting! Teamwork!
Leadership! Recreational! Educational!
All these words and many more help
describe what's in store for FFA members
attending summer camp at the Cherry

Grove FFA Camp this summer. If you're
looking for a chance to get together with
other FFA members from throughout the
state, plan now to attend one of the special
theme weeks designed especially with you

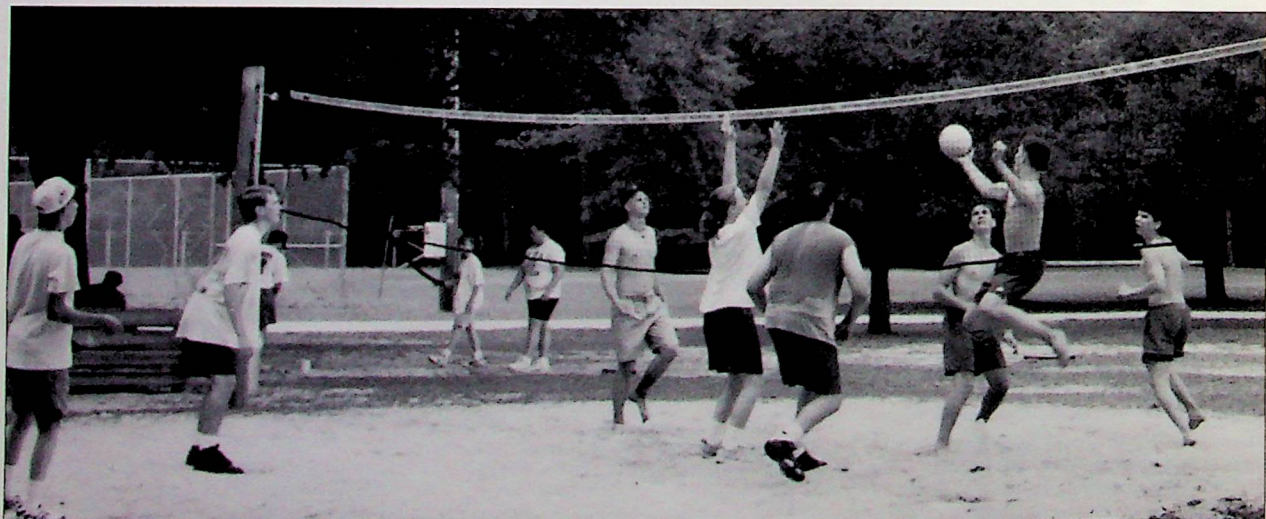
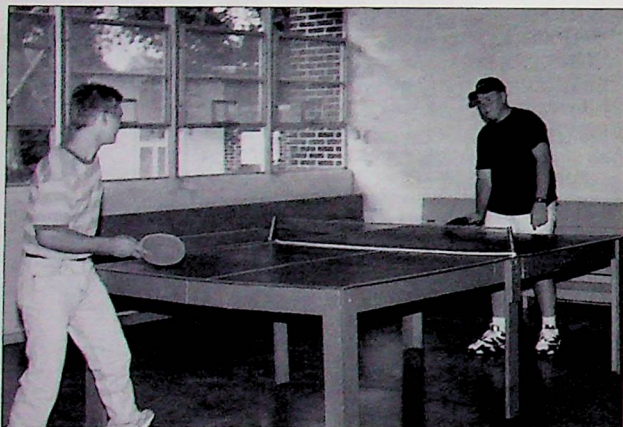
in mind. Dr. Law, State FFA Advisor,
David Watson, Camp Director and Ron
Garner, Program Director are planning
many new and exciting activities for each
week. Dates and themes are:

June 10-14	Environmental and Natural Resources
June 17-21	Agricultural Science and Technology
June 25-28	FFA Chapter Leadership Conference
July 04-08	Project Pals

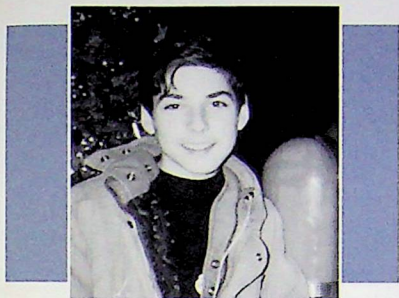
Special field trips, resource leaders,
hands-on activities and great food have
been scheduled. Again this year, the Made

for Excellence Workshop will be a part of
the Chapter Leadership Conference week.
Your FFA chapter advisor has

received a special packet with reservation
forms and all the details you need to
attend the camp of your choice.



UKRAINIAN STUDENT STUDIES AGRICULTURE IN SOUTH CAROLINA



The South Carolina Association of FFA is pleased to welcome Sasha Alekandre from Crimea in the Ukraine for a semester of studying agriculture in South Carolina. Sasha began his studies with Harry DuBose at the Academy for the Arts, Science and Technology in Myrtle Beach in January. He will conclude his studies and leave for home on June 16. The National FFA sponsors several international activities each year, one of which brings students from other

countries to the United States to study in top high school agriculture programs. Mr. DuBose's program is unique because it specializes in golf course and landscape technology and is articulated with a similar program at Horry/Georgetown Technical College. "This is a unique opportunity for South Carolina FFA members to visit with someone of their own age who is from a part of the former Soviet Union," Dr. Dale A. Law, State FFA advisor, said.



EARLE NAMED PRESIDENT OF SCVA

W. Patrick Earle, Agriculture Education instructor at McBee High School in Chesterfield County, was named 1996-1997 President of South Carolina Vocational Association. He will assume his duties in July at this summer's annual SCVA Conference. Earle has been an active member in not only

SCVA, but also SCVATA, NVATA and AVA. He has been teaching agriculture for 16 years and enjoys watching his students succeed thanks to their strong foundation in basic skills. His goals for this year in SCVA are to develop a strong sense of cooperation among all career and technology educators.

TOP STATE FFA SOIL WINNERS

FLORENCE- Pee Dee Experiment Station-FFA soil judging teams from Latta High School in Dillon County and Loris High School in Horry County won over 20 other teams Saturday, November 4, 1995 to take top honors in the 41st annual State FFA Soil Identification and Land Treatment Meet.

The meet staged by the Office of Occupational Education, State Department of Education, in cooperation with the State FFA Association functions through 98 local high school chapters to provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate training received in the classroom or lab and through local FFA chapter activities. More than 8,000 South Carolina youths receive instruction annually in soil identification and land treatment through agriculture education courses. Only 80 of the best students have the privilege to compete at the state level.

Meet participants earned the right to compete by first placing among the top four individuals in their respective local FFA chapters in soil identification and

land treatment. These individuals then competed as a team to win top honors in their federation or district. South Carolina has four FFA districts within the state: District I, Piedmont; District II, Northern/Midlands; District III, Pee Dee; and District IV, Charleston/ Savannah River Area. The teams competed on November 4 for the honor of representing the S.C. FFA Association in the annual National Land Judging Contest on May 2, 1996 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The two top teams each received \$1,700.00 for expenses to the national meet, and both were awarded plaques as the top Palmetto State soil judging teams. The Latta Chapter tallied 675 of a possible 720 points to head the field, with the Loris Chapter scoring 665 points to finish as the runner-up.

Members of the top team are: Michael Kirby, Bill Coward, Drew Liebenrood, and Jerry Martin of the Latta Chapter, with Keith Cox as agriculture teacher and team advisor.

Members of the second place team are: Everette Fowler, Wayne Tyler,

Dewayne Alford, Marty Skipper of the Loris Chapter, with Ben Hardee as agriculture teacher and team advisor.

The first place individual award went to Michael Kirby of the Latta Chapter, who scored 235 of a possible 240 points. He received \$450.00 for a trip to the National FFA Convention next fall in Kansas City, Missouri. Second place individual honors went to Bill Coward of the Latta Chapter, who tallied 229 points to win an engraved gold watch.

Receiving top district honors and a plaque Saturday were these teams: District I—Abbeville Chapter; District II—Lexington AVC Chapter; District III—Latta Chapter; and District IV—Wagner Salley Chapter.

Annual sponsors of the meet are Duke Power Company, Carolina Power and Light Company, South Carolina Electric and Gas Company, S.C. Conservation Districts Foundation and the S.C. Association of Conservation Districts. The Natural Resources Conservation Service assisted in staging the competition.



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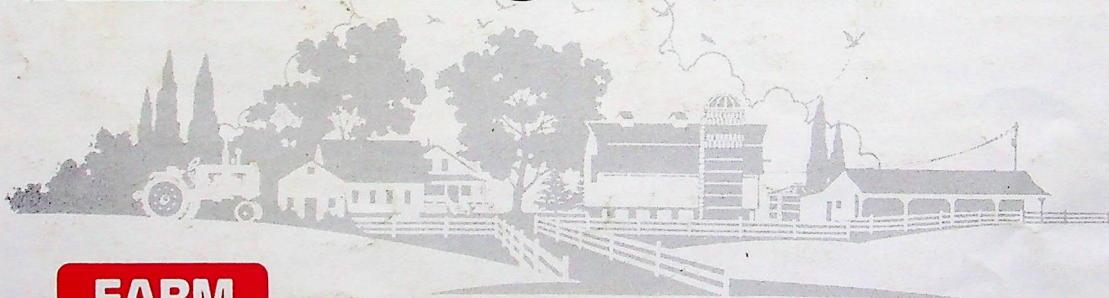
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SUPERIOR CHAPTER AWARDS



Representatives of 17 Superior Chapters were on hand to receive the 1980 Superior Chapter Award. Chapters earning the award are listed below (followed by the name of the advisor): Liberty (W. W. McClellan); James F. Byrnes (G. P. Jones, Jr.); Belton-Honea Path (Harold Mackey); Pendleton (Royce Caines and George M. Reed); Dorman (Charles G. Moore); Boiling Springs (Dennis Haltiwanger); Wren (L. V. Walker, Jr.); Gilbert (J. A. Cunningham); Pelion (Freddie Waltz); Floyd D. Johnson Vocational Center, York (W. S. Wilkins); Aynor (Russell Duncan); Andrews (Gilmore McManus); Aynor-Conway Career Center (W. L. Barr and Marion Weatherford); Loris (Benjamin Hardee); Branchville (Joseph Jackson); St. Matthews (Alvin Larke); and Bowman (Marion Cain). Dorman and James F. Byrnes chapters were submitted for national recognition.

This award is sponsored by the National FFA Foundation to encourage chapters to meet certain criteria and sponsor certain leadership activities. Chapters received either a plaque or an insert for a plaque previously won.

NEW LEADERS ELECTED



Elected to lead the S. C. Association of Future Farmers in its fifty-third year are, left to right: Frank Parker, President, St. Matthews; Nancy Gentry, Vice President, Pendleton; Jay Rowe, Secretary, Pleasant Hill; Richard Smith, Treasurer, Dorman; Harry Blair, Reporter, York; and John Herron, Sentinel, Crescent.

The election took place at the recent State FFA Convention at Clemson University.

CHAPTER SAFETY AWARDS



Elin Duckworth, right, National FFA Vice President from Mesa, Arizona, presented Superior Chapter Awards in the National FFA Safety Program to representatives of the following chapters (advisor's name follows name of chapter): Dorman, Charles G. Moore; Loris, Benjamin Hardee; Union, Cleveland Jackson; Aynor, Russell Duncan; Pelion, Freddie Waltz; Pendleton, Royce Caines and George Reed; Branchville, Joe Jackson; Andrews, Gilmore McManus; and Aynor-Conway Career Center, W. L. Barr and Marion Weatherford.

The purpose of this award is to encourage members to take a more active role in farm safety training by becoming involved and participating in local community safety projects and activities. This award is sponsored by the Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute and Dow Chemical, USA, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The three chapters presented for national recognition were Dorman, Loris and Union.

HONORED



The S. C. Agriculture Teachers Association gave special recognition for outstanding service to Pete Gustafson and John McMillan, Directors of Public Affairs for the S. C. Farm Bureau Federation, and John Foley, Director of Research for the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

S. C. YOUNG FARMER AND FUTURE FARMER

RETIREEES



Seven outstanding vocational agriculture teachers retired at the end of the 1979-80 school year. They are, front row, left to right: R. C. Chastain, Greer; D. E. Stoudenmire, Greenville Sr.; Olin Powell, Lake City; and R. F. Taylor, Cheraw. Second row, John Harris, Holly Hill; F. E. McPhail, Blackville, and Dr. Earl T. Carpenter, Head, Agricultural Educational Department, Clemson University. Not present when picture was made, J. P. Hayes, Green Sea-Floyd.

The S. C. Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association recognized the eight members retiring in 1980 at the annual teachers conference held in Columbia. A silver engraved tray was presented to each retiree in appreciation for his long, outstanding, and devoted service to the vocational agricultural education program in South Carolina.

These awards were presented by Mr. Jim Whitten, Farm Credit Bank Services of Columbia, the sponsor.

CARPENTER RETIRES



Dr. Earl T. Carpenter was born in Hannibal, Missouri and received his grade school education in the Monroe City schools. He received the B.S. degree in agriculture in 1948, the M.Ed. degree in 1954, and Ed.D. in 1960, all from the University of Missouri.

Dr. Carpenter began his professional career at Kahoka, Missouri in 1949 as a teacher of agriculture and later taught agriculture in Boone, Iowa. In 1961 Dr. Carpenter came to Clemson as Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education and Farm Management Specialist. In 1962 he went back to Missouri and was Professor of Agricultural Education and Agricultural Economics from 1962 until 1967 at the University of Missouri. In 1967 he came back to Clemson as Director of the R.C.U. for Vocational Education. From 1968 to 1970 he was Associate Professor of Agricultural Education. In 1970 he was named Head of the Agricultural Education Department at Clemson University and served in that capacity until June, 1980.

He is married to the former Sara Stephens of Laurens.

RODGERS APPOINTED



Dr. John H. Rodgers, a native of South Carolina, received his B.S. degree in 1952 and M.S. degree in 1953 from Clemson University, and a Ph.D. in 1961 from Ohio State University. In every case he graduated with honors. He is a member of numerous professional organizations and honorary fraternities.

Dr. Rodgers began his professional career at Pleasant Hill High School as teacher of agriculture and remained there from 1953 to 1959. In 1959-60 he was a Research Fellow at Ohio State University. From 1960-1965 he was an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education at Clemson University and from 1965-1968 was Head of the Agricultural Education Department of V.P.I. In 1968 he returned to Clemson as Director of the R.C.U. and remained in that position until 1971. From June, 1971 to June, 1980 he was a Professor of Agricultural Education at Clemson University. In July, 1980 he was named Head of the Agricultural Education Department at Clemson University.

He is married and has four children.

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